

## Barbie Doll

By Marge Piercy

This girlchild was born as usual  
and presented dolls that did pee-pee  
and miniature GE stoves and irons  
and wee lipsticks the color of cherry candy.  
Then in the magic of puberty, a classmate  
said:

You have a great big nose and fat legs.

She was healthy, tested intelligent,  
possessed strong arms and back,  
abundant sexual drive and manual dexterity.  
She went to and fro apologizing.  
Everyone saw a fat nose on thick legs.

She was advised to play coy,  
exhorted to come on hearty,  
exercise, diet, smile and wheedle.  
Her good nature wore out  
like a fan belt.  
So she cut off her nose and her legs  
and offered them up.

In the casket displayed on satin she lay  
with the undertaker's cosmetics painted on,  
a turned-up putty nose,  
dressed in a pink and white nightie.  
Doesn't she look pretty? everyone said.  
Consummation at last.  
To every woman a happy ending.



# Cornell Notes

Name Shelbi Braun

Date 9/1/11

Topic per. 3

Class/Subject Howman/Eng. 4

10:10

Literary Terms you should know

Barbie doll

What are your thoughts on the barbie doll?

- Look to the Literary Terms packet for highlighted words + Memorize them  
you should already know most of them.

In your notebook on a new page title it "Barbie doll"

- In 1959, Ruth Handler noticed her daughter would rather play with magazine cutouts than her baby dolls.

so, she invented Barbie  
- it allowed little girls to imagine the future (different jobs)

- at first men were giving the dolls out as gag gifts

- soon after little girls decided Barbie needed a boy, so here comes Ken

- Barbie doll was the first advertised toy on tv

ex. Does it help or hurt little girls? What are the positive things about Barbie? ← Answer in notebook

# Cornell Notes

Name

Date

Topic

Class/  
Subject

10:30

"The Barbie Doll"

Socratic Seminar

- Read the poem
- Write all over it
- From Costas levels of questioning handout (from yesterday) create a level 1, 2, and 3 question

In a few minutes the class will open up to a discussion

Poem written in 1973

\*Presentations begin Wednesday  
5 min. powerpoint